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Toronto metro



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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Swastikas found in York classroom

INVESTIGATION

Prof ends lecture, says class is now a 'crime scene'

Toronto police are investigating after two chalk drawings of swastikas were found in a classroom at York University.

The university said an anti-Semitic statement was also discovered in the classroom.

The graffiti was found in the Victor Dahdaleh Building at around 8 a.m. Monday. Freya Clews, a 22-year-old student, said she noticed a commotion at the front when her education class began.

"The professor started the lecture, but said 'unfortunately there was an incident and we have to cancel the class because the class is now a crime scene and police are coming in,'" Clews said.

That's when she noticed two swastikas on the wall. Clews said everyone in the class felt "pretty disconcerted by it" and "uncomfortable with it."

Clews noted that one of the symbols on the wall was "drawn wrong," and said students quickly packed up and left.

"I couldn't tell if it was somebody goofing around or being a

jerk or someone who really intended to be hateful or intended something else," Clews said.

But the students in the class interpreted what was on the classroom wall as anti-Semitic images, she said.

The graffiti has since been removed.

Toronto police said they are treating the incident as a case of mischief and they are now checking security video.

"There was no damage to the classroom," Const. Jenifferjit Sidhu said. "The swastikas were not oriented correctly or not in the correct shape of a swastika so currently the investigation is open and ongoing and it's being investigated as a mischief."

York said anti-Semitism will not be tolerated and said the incident does not reflect the values of the institution.

Samina Sami, executive director of the department of community safety at York University, said they stand by their statement that "this act was hate graffiti and anti-Semitic."

"Justifiably people are concerned," Sami said. "Students have reached out with concern, wanting support."

Plus Toronto protesters to wage love on anti-Muslim rally metroNEWS

'Clearly a drunk can consent,' judge says metroNEWS

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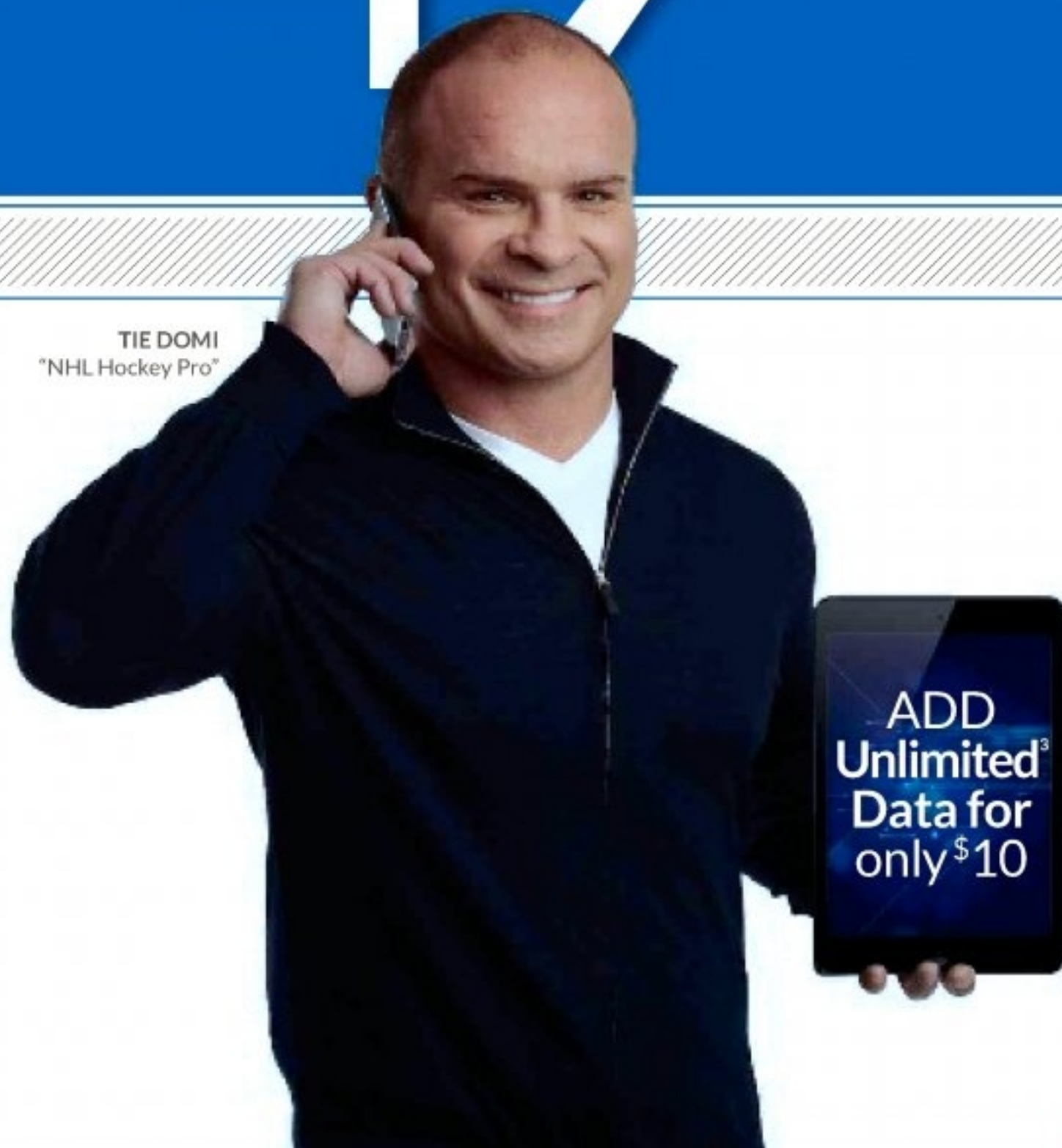
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HONEST ED'S PUBLIC INPUT

The public has a chance to weigh in on the new design for the old Honest Ed's location. The proposal for Bathurst and Bloor has been modified three times, with changes to the height (down to 28 storeys from 29) and density (down to 850 units from 928) of the rental highrises.

The plan includes storefront retail and a food hall, along with cycling infrastructure, and public park space.

Pending approval, the developer will start demolition of non-heritage buildings in May and construction by summer.

Thursday's community consultation will take place at the Bickford Centre Cafeteria on Bloor St. W. starting at 6:30 p.m.

TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IMAGE: CONTRIBUTED



Welcoming women on Wikipedia

DIVERSITY

Advocates to host webpage editing event for artists



May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Maryon Kantaroff, Tazeen Qayyum, Mille Chen. These women

are all great Canadian artists but they don't have Wikipedia pages.

That's something local advocates hope to change with an Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon next month at the Art Gallery of Ontario for International Women's Day.

"Wikipedia is such an important information source, it's such a popular website, and the idea is that everyone can edit it, but the reality is that not everyone does," said Amy Furness, one of the edit-a-thon organizers and

the museum's special collections archivist.

Wikipedia editors tend to be largely male, Furness said, adding this might be because women have less free time because they shoulder so much of the housework and child care.

"There's an idea that the content is skewed by who is editing it," she said.

"By getting people together in a supportive environment, helping them learn and making it social and supportive, it sort of

breaks that ice."

Anyone is welcome to come, Furness said. Volunteers will expand on existing Wikipedia profiles as well as create new ones. Other experienced editors will be on hand to help out and offer tutorials.

It's part of an international day of editing Wikipedia pages, started in New York City. Similar events are happening "in every inhabited continent" throughout March, said Furness, in honour of international women's month.

An edit-a-thon based on the same principles was held last month to raise the profile of black artists on Wikipedia.

"It's the idea of diversifying who's editing it and making sure that the content reflects the wide range of human knowledge," Furness said.

These kinds of events are particularly relevant in an era of alternative facts and fake news, because Wikipedia has to be backed up with secondary sources, she said.



Last year's Edit-A-Thon.
CONTRIBUTED

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'Kids ride free' ups TTC child ridership

TRANSPORTATION

Projection for this year is 28 million children

The mayor's policy of allowing children to ride the TTC for free has caused the number of children taking transit to skyrocket.

The program went into effect March 1, 2015. According to newly released TTC figures, in 2016, the first full year of its implementation, 22 million kids took transit. That was double the number children's rides in 2014. This year the TTC is projecting 28 million kids will take transit.

At a news conference Wednesday to mark the two-year anniversary of the policy Mayor John Tory hailed the program as a major success that he said benefits schools, community

groups and low-income families.

"It helps kids to get to school, to daycare, to appointments, to the library, to recreational programs, and frankly to have an opportunity to enjoy the city," said Tory, as he stood outside Nelson Mandela Park Public School in Regent Park.

The higher kids ridership "is evidence of the fact that we are not only helping those families to go places they couldn't go, helping those classes of school kids to go places they couldn't go previously," Tory said.

Although the policy was implemented months before council adopted a 20-year poverty reduction strategy, Tory said it should be considered an integral anti-poverty initiative because it can save struggling families hundreds of dollars a year. The program costs the city about \$8 million annually. Before it passed, children paid a 75-cent fare.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



TTC figures show 22 million kids took transit in 2016 — double the number of children's rides in 2014. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

TRADE

Tory to lead mission to India, Sri Lanka

Toronto Mayor John Tory is hitting the road again, this time with a trade mission to India and Sri Lanka.

Tory starts the 10-day trip March 15. The city is paying for him, two city councillors and four city staff, while about 20 delegates from Toronto's business and academic communities will pay their own way.

A draft itinerary lists three dozen meetings in cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad — India has the world's fastest growing major economy and strong ties to Indo-Canadians in the GTA — and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The mayor will try to lure offices and jobs to Toronto and promote trade between local firms and South Asian companies, with a focus on film, education, finance and innovation.

Tory is scheduled to discuss "plans to expand in Canada" with officials from drug and life sciences firm Jubilant Bhartia Group in Delhi; pitch Toronto as a North American head office location to auto part maker Hero Industries; and meet with officials from Tata, India's biggest conglomerate, to discuss



Mayor John Tory during a business trip to San Francisco last year. TWITTER

"expansion plans."

One delegate on the trip, Delhi-raised and Toronto-based Paytm Labs chief executive Harinder Takhar, said Canada's biggest city is "very undiscovered" internationally despite its wealth of financial tech talent.

The amount of venture capital investment in India has exploded, he said, while many of the country's 1.2 billion-plus residents are buying cheap mobile phones with data as a first real personal computing experience.

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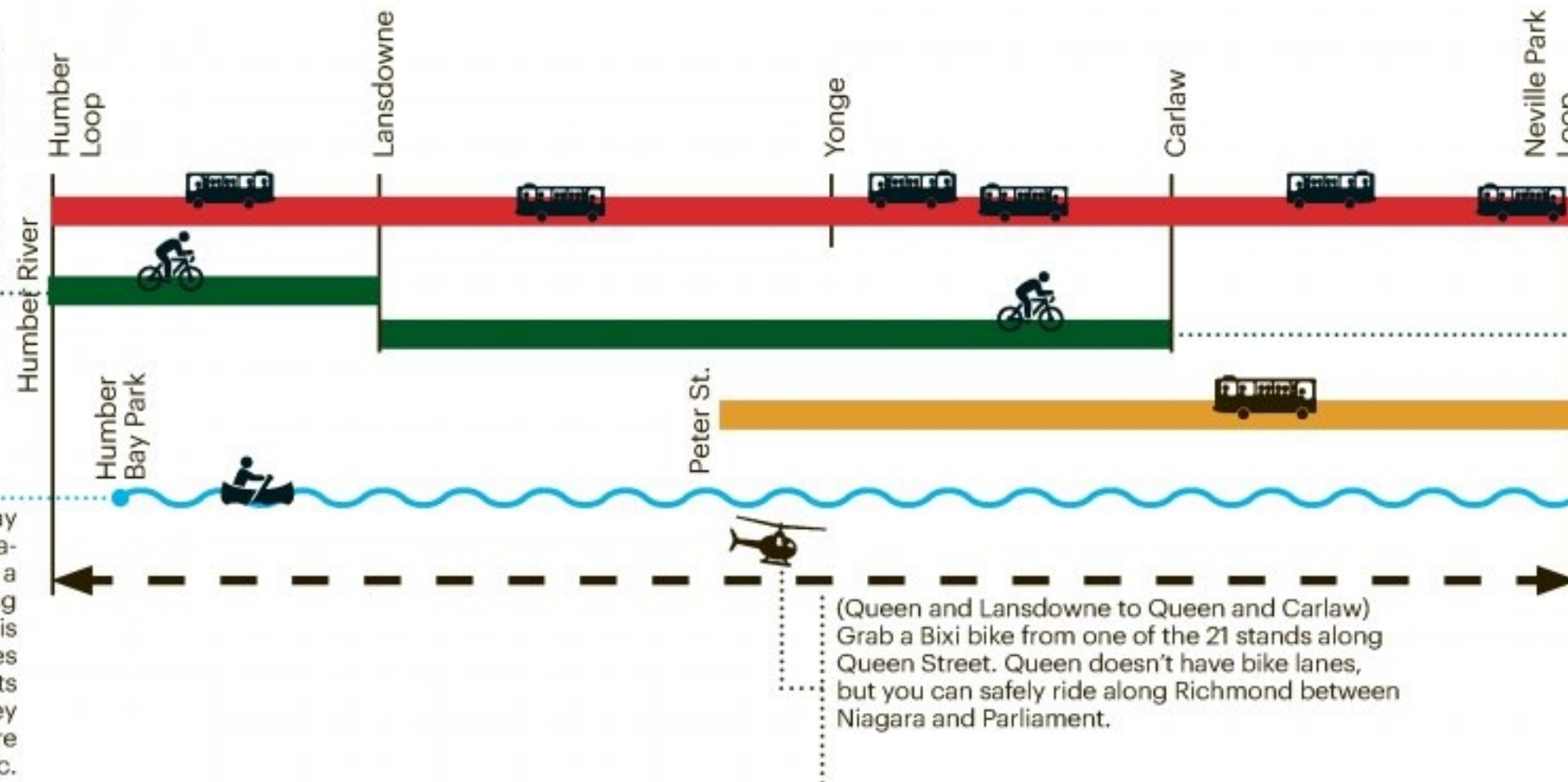
When Queen streetcars stop

Due to multiple construction projects, the Queen 501 streetcar will be closed all summer, with a big impact on the 43,000 daily passengers that travel its 24 kilometres of track — one of the world's longest streetcar routes. If you don't want to be crammed in one of the 65 replacement buses, here are some options:

DAVID HAINS/METRO; GRAPHIC BY ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

(Humber River to Lansdowne) Head south to the water and take advantage of the Martin Goodman Trail. The 56-kilometre waterfront path can be used for walking, running and cycling. It's especially nice around the mouth of the Humber River.

(Lakeshore and Humber Bay Park, among other locations) If you're looking for a pleasant trip, five paddling nodes could open up this summer if council approves the \$500,000 project at its next meeting. The journey may be slower, but there won't be any traffic.



(Queen and Peter to Neville Park Loop) Don't want to ride with the rest of us on the 501 replacement buses? Well there's always the 143 Downtown/Beach Express, which requires an extra fare.

(Whole route) If for some reason you fancied the Queen streetcar despite sitting on a mountain of cash, you could charter a helicopter instead. National Helicopters Inc. tells Metro that it costs \$550 per hour to charter a chopper, in which time you could make two return trips over the whole Queen line.

(Queen and Lansdowne to Queen and Carlaw) Grab a Bixi bike from one of the 21 stands along Queen Street. Queen doesn't have bike lanes, but you can safely ride along Richmond between Niagara and Parliament.

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Illness outbreak linked to rats

PUBLIC HEALTH

Seoul virus patients all had contact with the rodents

Three people in Ontario have been infected with Seoul virus, an illness typically transmitted by rats, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams said Wednesday.

All three cases are linked to prolonged contact with rats in Ontario, he said.

"No serious health outcomes have been reported for the cases," Williams stated.

He said while the health risk is low and the virus is not spread from person to person, anyone with rat contact should contact their health care provider, and if concerned, their vet to discuss if their pet rat should be tested.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is investigating the source of the illnesses, including any possible connections to



Seoul virus is typically transmitted from rats through bites or exposure to urine, feces, saliva or contaminated bedding.

NICOLAS DELAUNAY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

an outbreak of 16 human cases in the U.S. across 16 states. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating those cases.

Seoul virus can be transmitted from rats to people through bites or exposure to urine, feces, saliva or contaminated bedding, Williams said.

In humans, symptoms of the virus in some cases may include fever, severe headache, back and abdominal pain, chills, blurred vision, redness of the eyes or rash.

However, a person infected with the virus might not develop symptoms at all.

The majority of people infected recover with no long-term health effects, but in rare cases the virus can lead to a serious condition called hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, which can cause low blood pressure, shock and acute kidney failure.

The ministry is continuing to test rats, and has found some infected rats at Ontario rat breeding facilities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The City of Toronto is considering a stormwater charge

Tell us what you think

Visit toronto.ca/stormwatercharge to:

- Learn more about the **proposed stormwater charge**
- Get a complete list of the **public consultation** dates and locations
- Complete the **survey**

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow. When not absorbed into the ground, it runs off properties onto streets, down storm drains and through a complex network of pipes that carry it into local waterways or, in some cases, wastewater treatment facilities. Generally, the more hard surfaces a property has the more stormwater it adds to the stormwater system.

What is the challenge?

An increase in extreme storms, combined with more hard surfaces in the city is resulting in more water making its way into the stormwater system. Too much water can overwhelm the system leading to flooded basements and poor water quality in local waterways, including Lake Ontario.

How is stormwater managed?

Making infrastructure improvements is necessary to manage the impacts of stormwater. To help manage stormwater, the City is creating new holding ponds, tanks and tunnels, and overhauling some sewer infrastructure that is more than 100 years old.

How will a stormwater charge affect water bills?

The proposal is to remove the portion paid for stormwater – currently embedded in the water rate – and show it as a separate charge on the bill. The water rate will decrease and a stormwater charge will be added. The amount paid for stormwater will be based on property size and the average amount of hard surfaces on properties of a similar size. **Some bills will go up and some will go down.**

The examples on the right use proposed 2019 water rates. They are examples only, because water use and lot size differ for all properties.

RESIDENTIAL Assumes annual water use of 265 cubic metres and a lot size of 0.037 ha (approx. 4,000 sq ft)

CURRENT	PROPOSAL: LOWER WATER RATE + STORMWATER CHARGE
Water rate charge: \$1,038	Water rate charge: \$805 Stormwater charge: \$225
Total annual bill: \$1,038 Per day: \$2.84	Total annual bill: \$1,030 Per day: \$2.82
	Annual difference: -\$8 -0.8%

APARTMENT & CONDO BUILDINGS Assumes annual water use of 2,557 cubic metres and a lot size of 0.088 ha (approx. 9,500 sq ft)

CURRENT	PROPOSAL: LOWER WATER RATE + STORMWATER CHARGE
Water rate charge: \$10,018	Water rate charge: \$7,771 Stormwater charge: \$860
Total annual bill: \$10,018 Per day: \$27.45	Total annual bill: \$8,631 Per day: \$23.65
	Annual difference: -\$1,387 -13.8%

INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL Assumes annual water use of 532 cubic metres and a lot size of 0.052 ha (approx. 5,600 sq ft)

CURRENT	PROPOSAL: LOWER WATER RATE + STORMWATER CHARGE
Water rate charge: \$2,084	Water rate charge: \$1,617 Stormwater charge: \$530
Total annual bill: \$2,084 Per day: \$5.71	Total annual bill: \$2,147 Per day: \$5.88
	Annual difference: \$62 3.0%

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 - East York Civic Centre Monday, March 20
 - Etobicoke Civic Centre Thursday, March 23
 - York Civic Centre Tuesday, March 28
 - Metro Hall Thursday, March 30 (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
 - North York Civic Centre Tuesday, April 4
- * Events start at 6 p.m. (except where noted otherwise) and presentations begin at 7 p.m.

Why is a stormwater charge being considered?

There is a growing need for new and upgraded stormwater infrastructure. Toronto City Council will be considering the stormwater charge in the spring of 2017.

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Man dismissed after 'disturbing' sermon

Ryerson University has fired a teaching assistant accused of making "disturbing, anti-Semitic comments" during prayers at a downtown Toronto mosque last year. The dismissal stems from offensive comments made during a prayer service last summer at Masjid Toronto.

In an Arabic sermon, Ayman Elkasrawy, who the mosque says is a junior employee, allegedly called to "purify the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews," according to B'nai Brith Canada.

In a statement last week, the

Muslim Association of Canada said Elkasrawy had "used language during prayers that was unacceptable and against the values and practices of MAC, Masjid Toronto and the Muslim community at large."

The organization apologized to the Jewish community and announced it was investigating.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Ayman Elkasrawy
LINKEDIN

Officials believe Islamic centre fire to be arson

Toronto police say a fire at an Islamic centre Tuesday night is being investigated as an act of arson.

Emergency crews were notified of a fire on the roof of The Reign of Islamic Da'wah, an Islamic information centre at Weston Rd. and Humber Blvd. N., at around 11 p.m.

Firefighters noticed the smell of burning plastic at the

scene, said Toronto Fire District Stephen Powell.

The fire was put out quickly, said Powell.

Const. Victor Kwong said police are still investigating, but believe the fire was deliberately set.

No one was in the building at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Counter-protest asks for inclusion

WAGELove!
Movement in response to anti-Islam rally, incidents



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A new movement has sprung up in Toronto to wage love and oppose anti-Muslim sentiments.

Under the umbrella of Organizing Committee Against Islamophobia, dozens of organizations are planning to storm city hall this Saturday with messages of inclusion, support, love and diversity.

It's a counter protest to an anti-Islam rally organized for the same day by the self-styled Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens.

The group claims to fight



Toronto has been a scene of protests in support of Muslims and other marginalized communities since the election of Donald Trump. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

for freedom and justice and to "stand against Sharia Law," but critics say it's simply an attempt to incite violence against Muslims.

"They are using the pretence of free speech to spread hate and intolerance against Mus-

lims, immigrants and refugees," said Sarah Ali, one of the organizers of the counter-protest. "We are an anti-oppressive committee and we just want to show that things like white supremacy, fascism and Islamophobia are never

going to be tolerated by our communities in Toronto."

Anti-Muslim incidents have been on the rise both in Toronto and across the country, especially in the aftermath of the January terror attack that killed six people inside a Quebec mosque.

Last month a small group of protesters disrupted prayers at a downtown mosque, with signs and messages calling for a ban on Islam.

Ali said the words and actions of such groups "are violent in nature," and it's worrying that they can find a platform in Toronto or anywhere else.

"They exist because of things like anti-terrorism legislation," she said, referring to controversies around Bill C-51, the barbaric and cultural practices act and other federal laws around national security and privacy.

"People who want to spread hate now feel emboldened to do so in public. It is unacceptable."



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Marva Burnett, president of ACORN Canada, a group pushing for landlord licensing in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

Toronto DIGEST

EAST YORK

Teens arrested, accused of helping with shooting

Two Toronto teenagers arrested on Tuesday are facing a grand total of 29 charges, from failure to comply with probation to attempted murder, for allegedly assisting with an East York shooting last December.

The two suspects are both male, ages 16 and 18.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

QUEEN'S PARK

Child-care funds must go to non-profits: NDP

As advocates push Queen's Park to ensure 100,000 promised child-care spaces are affordable for families and offer decent work for early childhood educators, the NDP has introduced a private member's bill that would direct new provincial funding to non-profit programs only.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

QUEENS QUAY

New trial for man who drove into streetcar tunnel

A new trial has been ordered for Andrew Deighan, who in 2015 got stuck in the Queens Quay streetcar tunnel. He was acquitted of impaired driving as the judge ruled some of his actions could be explained by anxiety medication. That decision was overturned last month after the Crown appealed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OPIOID CRISIS

Crime Stoppers puts up \$1K bounty for fentanyl info

In an effort to get the deadly opioid fentanyl off the streets, certain Crime Stoppers organizations in Ontario are offering a \$1,000 bounty for information that leads to seizure of illicit forms of the drug or the arrest of traffickers. Const. Dana Edwards says the program will run through the end of April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 tenant rights up for debate

If you're a barber, auctioneer or bowling-alley owner in Toronto, you must be licensed. You do not, however, need a licence to be a landlord. That could soon change. Reforms before city hall mean more rights for tenants in buildings that are three or more storeys with 10 or more units — if the motion makes it through committee next week and council after.

DAVID HAINS METRO

1 Requests

Landlords must have a process to receive and track tenant requests. That means they can't just ignore reasonable requests, and there should be a paper trail.

3 Pest problems

Landlords won't be allowed to rent a unit if the owner is aware there are pests. Pest records would also have to be made available to prospective tenants upon request.

5 Repair plans

Landlords have to provide plans for repairs to tenants upon request. This includes telling tenants what the situation is for overall capital repairs and maintenance as well as the investment plan that goes along with it.

2 Note board

Landlords must maintain a notification board in an accessible location where they communicate issues such as repairs, provide emergency contact info and indicate where the nearest air-conditioned building is located.

4 Cleanliness

Building common areas must be inspected for cleanliness at least once a day. The principle here is clear: a common space is the responsibility of the landlord.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM DOING YOUR TAXES.

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'A drunk can consent'

HALIFAX

Judge acquits taxi driver of sex assault



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax taxi driver found with an intoxicated, unconscious, mostly naked woman in his cab and her DNA on his mouth has been acquitted of sexual assault by a judge who said there wasn't enough evidence to prove the woman's "lack of consent."

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled that Bassam Al-Rawi was not guilty of sexual assault in Halifax provincial court on Wednesday after he stood trial last month for a May 23, 2015 incident.

The complainant was found by police in Al-Rawi's cab around 1:20 a.m., passed out after a night of drinking and being turned away from a downtown bar. Her belongings were spread around the car as she

lay in the backseat with her feet up on the two front seats, only a shirt partially covering her breasts.

Al-Rawi's pants were partially undone and sitting lower on his body, the court heard. As police approached, they saw his seat was reclined and he attempted to hide the woman's pants and underwear.

Part of the evidence the Crown presented was a toxicology report showing the 26-year-old complainant would've had a concentration of between 223 and 244 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood when police found her.

Crown attorney Ron Lacey said during the trial there was ample evidence non-consensual touching had occurred, and anyone that intoxicated could not consent to anything.

"Clearly a drunk can consent," Lenehan said. There's no doubt the complainant was unconscious when she was found by police so at that moment she was unable to consent, Lenehan said — but what's unknown is when exactly she passed out and "that's important."



A family from Somalia is helped by Mounties along the U.S.-Canada border. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll reveals attitudes toward refugees

A newly released federal survey on attitudes towards immigration suggests Canadians are somewhat more enthusiastic about accepting economic migrants than they are about refugees.

While 52 per cent of those polled in the Immigration Department's annual tracking study felt the right number of immigrants were coming to Canada, 23 per cent thought it was too high.

Meanwhile, 40 per cent felt the right number of refugees was

being admitted and 30 per cent thought that figure was too high.

The 2016 survey was done long before immigration and refugee policy became a centrepiece of the U.S. presidential campaign and the eventual new administration of Donald Trump, and before the question of what values immigrants to Canada ought to hold became a centrepiece of Conservative leadership politics here.

So while the data might not reflect how attitudes have shifted

since those developments, it's telling for what it was probing for in the first place, suggested Jack Jedwab, the executive vice president of the Association for Canadian Studies and co-chairman of an upcoming conference on integration and immigration.

"I think what the government is trying to get at is the issue of the extent to which people are more preoccupied by the increase in refugees that's happening in a lot of other places in the world," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



National digest

University evacuated after bomb threats

Three Concordia University buildings in Montreal were closed Wednesday after the institution received bomb threats targeting Muslim students.

In a letter sent to several media outlets, a group threatened to detonate "small artisanal explosive devices" once a day until Friday in order to injure Muslim students.

No suspicious objects were found on the premises, said Montreal police spokesman Benoit Boisselle. CP

Are my bowling pants black enough for you?

A seven-year-old boy and his bowling team will be given gold medals after they were stripped of their bowling championship over the weekend for wearing the wrong pants.

Todd Powell of Conception Bay South, N.L., said in Wednesday that he was told before the tournament that black pants were required, but on short notice was only able to find a pair of faded black jeans for his son. CP

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Ban on Muslims under revision

IMMIGRATION

U.S. officials reveal softer approach

President Donald Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, American officials say, citing the latest draft in circulation. Trump is expected to sign the executive order in the coming days.

Four officials told The Associated Press that the decision followed pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which had urged the White House to reconsider Iraq's inclusion on the list given its key role in fighting Daesh.

Citizens of six other predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — will remain on the travel ban list, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the order before it is signed. Those bans are effective for 90 days.

The new order includes other changes as well. The officials said the 12-page document no longer singles out Syrian refugees for an indefinite ban and



Protesters march in New York's Times Square in solidarity with American Muslims and against the travel ban ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump on Feb. 19. GETTY IMAGES

instead includes them as part of a general, 120-day suspension of new refugee admissions.

The officials also said the order won't include any explicit exemption for religious minorities in the countries targeted by the travel ban. Critics had accused the administration of adding such language to help Christians get into the United States while excluding Muslims.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump signed his original

executive order in late January. It sparked immediate confusion, panic and outrage as some travellers were detained in U.S. airports before being sent back overseas and others were barred from boarding flights at foreign airports.

The federal government initially blocked U.S. green card holders before offering those legal residents special permission to come into the country. It finally decided the order didn't apply to them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Donor likely envoy to Canada

A big-money political donor and philanthropist with personal ties to the coal industry and professional connections to the White House and the U.S. Senate is expected to be named Donald Trump's ambassador to Canada.

Expectations within government, as well as recent media speculation, point to

the Trump administration submitting Kelly Knight Craft's name for the approval of the Senate.

Knight Craft would recognize some friendly faces in that chamber — starting with that of top Senate leader Mitch McConnell. She has donated to and co-chaired fundraising efforts over the years

for her home-state senator.

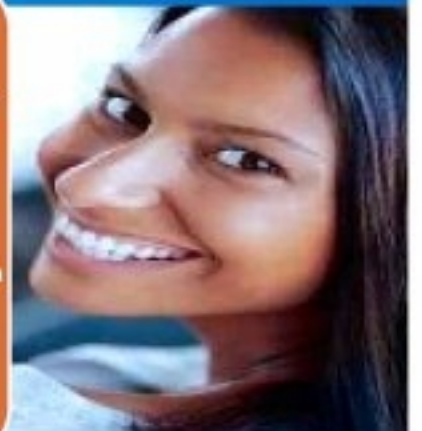
The chamber McConnell presides over is expected to deal with major issues affecting Canada over the coming years, including trade disputes, and the potential renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

She has a history in philanthropy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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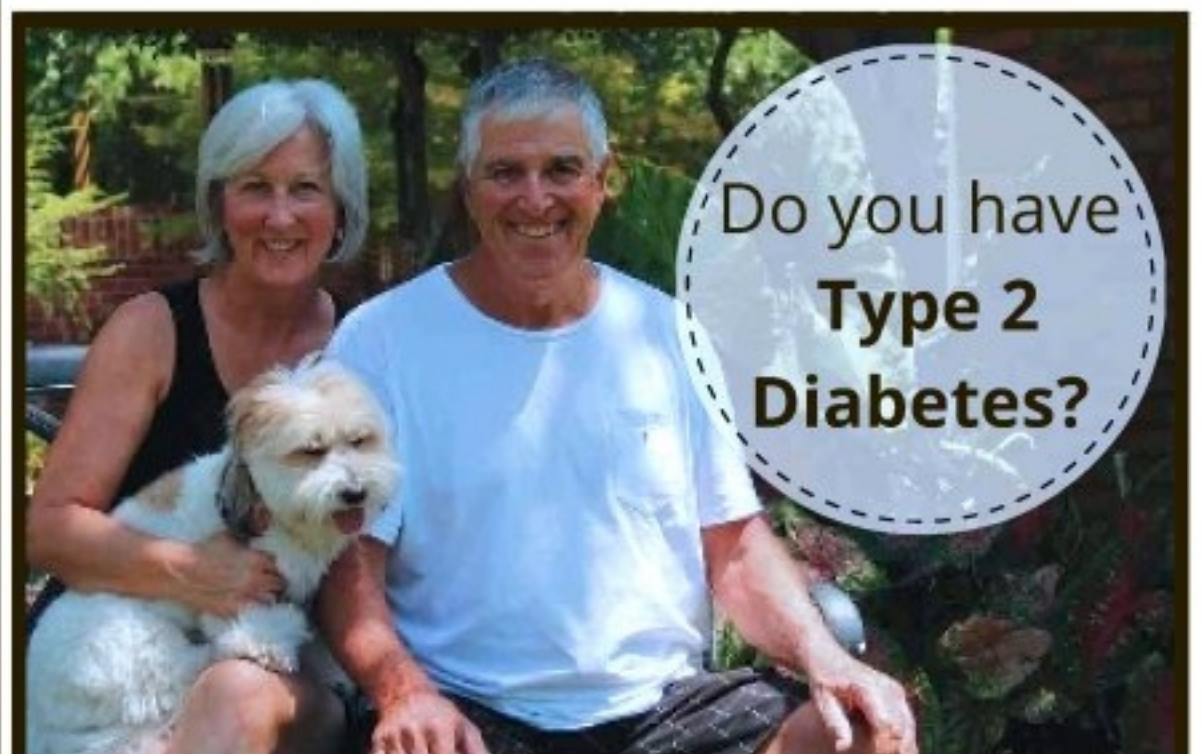
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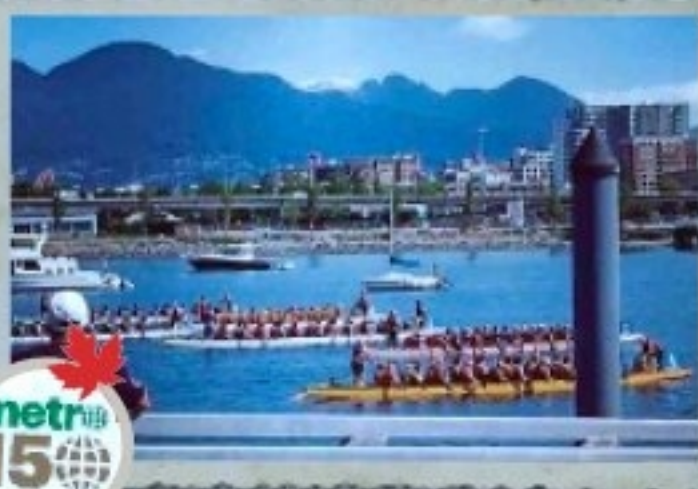
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World metro NEWS



Demonstrators bang pots and pans under the rain during an anti-corruption demonstration in front of the National Assembly in Paris on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Fillon soldiers on as backers bail out

FRANCE CAMPAIGN

Dethroned front-runner accused of corruption

The French presidential campaign lurched across another speedbump Wednesday as conservative candidate Francois Fillon defiantly vowed to stay in the race despite being notified that he may face preliminary corruption charges in two weeks.

The spring election to replace unpopular Socialist President Francois Hollande has been like no other, strewn with surprises and besmirched with corruption allegations against Fillon and far-right candidate Marine Le Pen of the National Front. Le Pen so far has managed to dodge investigating judges and maintain a top position in the polls.

Fillon, a former prime minister and once the front-runner in France's two-round April-May presidential election, announced that he was summoned to appear before judges on March 15 for allegedly using taxpayers' money to pay family members for jobs that may not have existed.

"I won't cede. I won't surrender. I won't withdraw," Fillon told reporters, denying guilt.

However, cracks within his own party quickly appeared, as one of his campaign officials, Bruno Le Maire, bowed out without hours, saying he can't follow a man who won't honour his word to withdraw if charged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro NEWS Business

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Morneau on 'getting-to-know-you' trip to U.S.

TRADE

Too early to challenge U.S. border tax idea, minister says

The flurry of Canadian cabinet members visiting Washington continued apace Wednesday as Finance Minister Bill Morneau dropped in on a U.S. capital awash in policy debates with big implications for America's northern neighbour.

Morneau called it a getting-to-know-you session so the Canadian government can have the lines of communication ready as the Trump administration settles on wide-reaching policies involving tax reform and trade.

Morneau is U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin's first visiting finance minister since taking office.



Finance Minister Bill Morneau and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin meet in Washington, Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ing office.

The U.S. is beginning discussions on a once-in-a-generation tax reform that could affect Canada in significant ways — with lower corporate rates in the U.S. and a border tax both under consideration. But the reforms are being hotly debated.

With all that uncertainty, Morneau described his meeting more as personal bridge-building than policy-making. He said he didn't delve into Canadian objections to the border-tax idea, which has strong pockets of opposition within Congress and the administration itself. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McDonald's plots to woo back fans

McDonald's acknowledged on Wednesday that it lost 500 million customer transactions in the U.S. since 2012 and laid out its plans to get more people back into its restaurants — including by letting them order

and pay on their mobile phones by the end of the year.

The chain said it lost some of its loyal fans to other major fast-food chains, rather than to newer rivals. It

also said it will more aggressively market items such as coffee and pastries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON LIBERAL INFIGHTING



Perceived gaps between Trudeau's words and his party's actions could have a corrosive cost to his brand.

Alan DeSousa has been the mayor of Montreal's Saint-Laurent borough since it was created 15 years ago. Initially elected on the ticket of mayor Gerald Tremblay, he survived the corruption scandals that marked that era and was re-elected as part of Denis Coderre's team in 2013.

When DeSousa declared his intention to run for the Liberal nomination in Saint-Laurent — the riding just vacated by former foreign affairs minister Stéphane Dion — he was considered if not a shoo-in, at least a highly competitive candidate.

Neither of his two rivals, former Quebec immigration minister Yolande James and Marwah Rizqi, a professor at Sherbrooke University who ran for the Liberals in Hochelaga in the 2015 election, could boast roots as deep in the riding.

There was no doubt that DeSousa would not have been Justin Trudeau's preferred choice. The prime minister has made gender parity a defining feature of his cabinet. Women account for only one quarter of the Liberal caucus. The government could use more cabinet-ready female MPs.

James — given her experi-

ence in the Quebec cabinet and the fact that some of her former ministerial staffers toil in the backrooms of Parliament Hill — was considered to have the inside track with the party establishment.

Some of the organizers who helped secure Heritage Minister Melanie Joly's 2015 nomination in a neighbouring riding were asked to lend a hand again. If James was going to have a shot at beating her two opponents, she needed all the help she could get. With the byelection set for April 3, she was also going to have to hit the ground running to sign up enough members to win the nomination.

That was last week. On Tuesday, DeSousa revealed that the Liberal party had barred him from vying for the nomination. In the letter he shared with the media, no reason was given.

Privately, party insiders point to DeSousa's association with the discredited Tremblay administration. As a member of the city's executive committee he was part of the mayor's inner circle. In 2013, his borough's offices were among those raided by Quebec's anti-corruption unit.

Still, DeSousa was never

charged. If he is guilty of anything in the eye of the federal Liberal brass, it is by association.

For the residents of Saint-Laurent it is, to say the least, awkward to be told that their long-serving mayor does not, for some unspecified reason, pass the smell test of Trudeau's Liberal party. From the perspective of DeSousa and his supporters, it is also a convenient way to remove him from contention.

Some Liberals in Markham-Thornhill are also crying foul after the party retroactively set Feb. 14 as the cut-off date to recruit members for a March 4 nomination vote.

One of Trudeau's senior advisers, Mary Ng, is running for the Liberal nomination in the riding vacated by former immigration minister John McCallum. Her rivals claim the move is designed to give her an edge on the competition.

In his days as leader, Jean Chrétien made no apologies for parachuting star candidates into some of the party's safest seats.

Immediately prior to and just after the 1995 Quebec referendum, Chrétien appointed Lucienne Robillard, Stéphane Dion and Pierre Pettigrew to

safe Montreal seats.

At the time he desperately needed more francophone Quebecers at the cabinet table. It is far from certain that an open nomination process would have resulted in the selection by local Liberal members of any of the three ridings.

Chrétien used the same route to ensure he had more women in his candidate lineup.

He took hits for short-circuiting the process, but at least his rationale for doing so and his method were transparent. Chrétien also took responsibility for imposing his choice on a given riding.

Officially, Trudeau has renounced that leader's prerogative. Early on, he pledged to have open nomination meetings in every riding. But in reality, he has replaced Chrétien's somewhat brutal clarity by an opaque vetting process for which neither he nor party officials seem to be accountable.

Regardless of the outcome of the Liberal infighting, there is little doubt that the party will hold Saint-Laurent and Markham-Thornhill on April 3.

But this is not the first instance where there is a perceived gap between the prime minister's words and the actions of his party and his government, and such episodes accumulate at corrosive cost to Trudeau's brand.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Tory leadership race or avant-garde art show?



Vicky Mochama
Metro

As an art project, the Conservative leadership race has taken on an avant-garde feeling. They've excelled at abstraction: 14 candidates that are distinguishable only with an angling of the head or a squint.

Yet two have found a way to stand out as only one can in 2017: Internet videos.

In a rather intriguing film from 2011 surfaced by Press Progress, Kevin O'Leary is shaving in a bright marble bathroom while wearing a towel around his waist.

For all the Trump comparisons, O'Leary's bathroom looks more like my parents' than a gold-embossed penthouse. He is also shaving his own face, which is a humble move for a titan of industry. (Perhaps the butler was holding the camera?)

In advance of a morning appearance via Skype, O'Leary gripes that all his bosses at the CBC are women, saying, "The thing about the CBC I gotta tell you guys, is the whole place is run by women.... It's ridiculous."

To "get back at them," as O'Leary puts it, he vows to not wear pants. "I never do," he says, as the camera pans down threateningly.

Sure, it's offensive to women, but as a piece of art, it is incisive and compelling. The viewers must ask themselves: Is O'Leary reverse-complimenting women by insulting

them? Is it a performance art piece of a lone man, naked and shorn, yet somehow harmed by women? I call it Wounded Masculinity and the Art of Shaving.

Or, it may be a commentary on the obsessive pettiness that comes when working from home alone too long. Truly, I have borne witness to the human condition, and it is a video of Kevin O'Leary topless and shaving.

The second video is a critique of video as a form. In it, Kellie Leitch presents her vision that all who enter Canada — immigrant, tourist, person on a layover to Seattle — must have a face-to-face interview with an immigration officer. That is not new information from the Leitch campaign. What is fresh is the visual journey.

As Leitch waxes on Canadian values like tolerance and faces (I could not hear the rest for the beauty), she wanders in and out of the light. At times, she sits briefly then hurtles toward the camera. When you least expect, she takes a deep breath as if to say, "Life is a series of breaths. And some of those breaths are taken by immigrants who are a threat to our borders."

Few can execute one resonant silence, let alone several of them. To do so while playing with motion, light and shadow is no less than mastery.

As the May 27 leadership election draws nearer, one can only hope for more challenging Conservative art.

Fingers crossed for a rap about the carbon tax.

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An athlete at any size

Q & A

Big Fit Girl author wants more diversity in fitness culture

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



Louise Green woke up on the morning she was to run her first half-marathon in 2013 feeling excited. But when she approached the sign-in desk to pick up her race kit, one of the staffers automatically reached for the 5K packet — less than a fourth of the distance she had signed up to run. This crushed her confidence.

"My body size communicated to him that I was not physically capable of running the event's longer race," writes Green in her new book, *Big Fit Girl*, out March 17.

Green, 45, who runs her own fitness business in Vancouver, is a runner, boxer and body activist. She believes that athletes come in all sizes and builds and that there needs to be more diversity in fitness culture.

What is it going to take for us to see more size diversity in fitness culture?

It's up to people to really be seen. A lot of women will still remain apprehensive or intimidated by fitness — and I believe they have a right to feel that way because it's scary when you don't see yourself represented. There's an element of the unknown. I think more brands

and the media culture supporting fitness need to broaden their spectrum of stories and imagery.

In true mainstream fitness magazines, you're not seeing women that are over a size 6. So if we could just start to see size 12; maybe size 14; a mixture? What I'm wanting is an accurate representation of women. That's really what we're asking for, and that's what I think is going to change the fitness culture to make it more approachable. When somebody can see themselves, it inspires them.

Some fitness stars say they're about body positivity, but their Instagrams are full of before and after photos. Are you worried that the body positivity movement is being co-opted?

I agree with you; often you're seeing a body-positive message but the imagery — and when you dig deep into the actual message — is still the same message of conforming to a smaller version of yourself. I don't know that that's intentional. I think that many women are so incredibly programmed, as we all have been at some point, to believe that is 'body positive' and the way to health.

I had this conversation yesterday with a friend of mine: what I actually have to endure for a month to lose, say 3 pounds, is white-knuckling deprivation. Some bodies will lose weight easily and some won't.

Is it then the job of the body activist to call out instances that we see where we feel like the message isn't healthy?

I do call out certain things that I think are absurd but I don't point fingers and name names, I just give examples.

People have good intentions but

I think my job is to just educate people on what I think and what I have experienced after working with literally over a thousand women who fall outside of the athletic norm. When you're somebody's trainer they really open up to you and I have really intimate conversations with these women. There's definitely a common theme throughout all of them. And I've experienced it as a plus-size woman myself, so I will make a point of trying to educate from that experience.

I got the sense the food section in your book was carefully written.

I didn't want it to appear like a diet. I wanted women to explore what works for them. I'm really against people feeling hungry. I don't believe in hunger and starvation — I don't think that fits an athletic model at all. So I really wanted women to reframe their thinking.

If you're looking at really living like an athlete ... eat as much as your body needs, but it should be nutritionally dense if you're wanting to perform better the next time you go out. And I also believe in having cake and celebrating life when the time is right.

Sometimes a form of body shaming comes from doctors who use weight and BMI as a way to measure health. Do you reject these measurements?

I have chosen my doctors very carefully and that's what I'm asking people to do in the book. Because even when I was my thinnest, I was

way outside of the BMI chart. I'm a heavy person even in a thinner frame. So those numbers have haunted me for a long time. All I could think in my mind is "I'm supposed to be 130 pounds, and I can't get there." I think it does more damage than good, to be honest. I think that many people — like my husband for example he's very muscular, and he's considered obese. I think that

it's an OK guideline but I don't think it's a great method of measurement.

Is there an alternative measurement that you would support?

I see why people would want to ask that question because we don't want to see people that are immobile because of weight. But I don't think that I want to really comment on what kind of size we should expect of people, or how we should measure it, but just to get people really living their healthiest life: trying to eat nutritionally dense food and moving your body. And then I really truly think that your body will find its right size.

What does fit mean to you?

Somebody who's fit is somebody who is setting goals; is regularly active; who regularly challenges themselves. I have some people that come to my classes that don't go as far as they could. I think people really need to ask themselves: "Am I challenging myself, am I sweating, am I breathing heavily, is my heart rate up?" Getting their heart rate up every week on a regular basis is going to produce a fit person.

THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED FOR BREVITY

ANXIETY

Teen girls create a space for support

After Lauren Marron received a sexually explicit message on social media from a boy she didn't know, lies spread around her school and community that she had sent him nude photos and provocative texts.

The then-Grade 8 student tried to stay strong. But the continuous grind of the rumour mill, the snide comments, the nasty looks and the slut-shaming took its toll, prompting her to miss nearly a month and half of school. Especially hurtful, she says, was the way other girls, even friends, turned on her.

"Teen girls are the ones shaming and blaming each other for things that happen to all of us," says the 14-year-old, who's now in Grade 9. "Girls complain about getting these types of messages all the time, so it's kind of insane how that all flipped and twisted ... It was really destructive."

"This culture where girls compete (with) and hurt each other, as opposed to support each other, has to stop."

That's why she and friend Chiara Picao are helping to organize Taboo Talks for Teens, an event to raise awareness about issues

many girls grapple with: slut-shaming, rape culture, assault, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, suicide and friendships.

The March 4 event (2 to 5 p.m. at the Jal Gua Café on Queen St.) will include teenage and adult guest speakers. Two co-founders of SafeBAE, a student-focused campaign in the U.S. started by teen survivors of sexual assault, will also participate via Skype: Ella Fairon and Jada Smith.

Lauren came up with the idea for a teen talk session after attending a Taboo Talks for Women, in which women

connect with each other through their personal storytelling. She reached out to organizer Zarina Chopra for help to set up a similar event for girls. Lauren hopes the teen talks become a regular event.

"I think people put on a lot of masks and they're not necessarily true to themselves," she says.

"(Taboo Talks for Teens) is really just to strip away all of the covers people put on and the nonsense they say and, just to have a group of people be honest, and real and forgiving and enlightened." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Zarina Chopra with teens Chiara Picao (centre) and Lauren Marron (right) who are organizing the upcoming event Taboo Talks for Teens. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A domestic duel under the covers

NON-FICTION

Writing couple match wits and parry in essays on marriage

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Stephen Marche's 2,200-word essay on the persisting gender divide surrounding housework — which he refers to as “intimate drudgery” — caused a firestorm of angry responses when it first published in the New York Times Sunday Review back in 2013.

The Toronto-based novelist and columnist suggested that everyone relax: the simplest and most direct way to correct the imbalance was to stop fretting so much over dust and unmade beds. His point did not go over well with many women, as witnessed on social media.

“You wouldn’t think that housework would be the most controversial point in the current moment of 21st-century politics, but there you go,” says Marche.

Several journalists wrote angry counter-responses suggesting



Writerly couple
Stephen Marche
and his wife, Toronto
Life editor Sarah
Fulford, have a new
book out on modern
relationships.

CONTRIBUTED

that Marche’s essay painted all women, including his wife, Toronto Life editor Sarah Fulford, as being crazy for their fastidiousness. But now, everyone will have an opportunity to read Fulford’s own personal reactions in Marche’s new essay collection, *The Unmade Bed: The Messy Truth About Men and Women in the 21st Century*. The book incorporates previously published work and new essays featuring notes from Fulford — who edits her husband’s early drafts — which at times either corroborate

or counter his perspective or memories of certain situations. (She expresses both frustration and grudging admiration with Marche’s laissez faire approach to domestic chores.)

“I always feel like when I read books about people’s marriages that they’re lying to me because that’s only one point of view. There are always two points of view in every situation in a marriage,” Marche says. “I thought this was a way of getting more to the intimacy, and getting a more interesting perspective of how a

modern marriage really works. It actually models the process of being in a marriage, where both people get a say.”

Through a series of eight essays — starting boldly with Marche trying not to mansplain “mansplaining” — the book covers wide territory, from the resurgence of online pornography to the challenges of parenting children of both genders. Although Marche’s theories are backed by numerous studies, *The Unmade Bed* is a very personal book, in which the author attempts to

make sense of his own experiences, including the death of his father and his mixed feelings about becoming a house-dad whose partner makes more money than him.

While researching, Marche was surprised to discover much more hope for change than he expected. “Especially now with Trump and the resurgence of this horrific misogyny globally, it’s hard to be optimistic, but then when you look at historical trends, they go one way: men and women are getting more equal,”

he says. “That is going to continue. It doesn’t matter who’s in power.”

Sure, studies show that women continue to gain more power economically, but Marche also acknowledges that staggering issues still exist, from domestic violence to wage gaps and leadership opportunities. He suggests it’s because we’re living in a “hollow patriarchy” that is nothing more than a brittle shell, and provocatively suggests that one way to help smash the remnants of this outdated system is for more men to speak up — not as “male feminists” and definitely not as men’s rights activists — but as active participants.

“When it comes to gender, men are actually not heard from enough,” he says. “I think the silence is very harmful and narrows the conversation around gender, and limits and hurts men, who, at this turning point are experiencing a total reconsideration of their gender and have decided to pretend it isn’t happening. I felt like it needed some explanation as to why.”

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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BEST PICTURE FLUB

Oscars accountants sacked

The president of the film academy says the two accountants responsible for the best-picture flub at Sunday’s Academy Awards will never return to the Oscar show.

Cheryl Boone Isaacs told The Associated Press that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ relationship with PwC, the accounting firm responsible for the integrity of the awards, remains under review.

Boone Isaacs broke her silence Wednesday following the biggest blunder in the 89-year



The wrong envelope in Beatty’s hands. GETTY IMAGES

history of the Academy Awards. PwC accountants Brian Cul-

linan and Martha Ruiz were responsible for the winners’ envelopes at Sunday’s Oscar show. Cullinan tweeted a photo of Emma Stone from backstage minutes before handing presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway the wrong envelope for best picture. Boone Isaacs said Cullinan’s distraction caused the error.

The academy has also apologized to the Australian movie producer it incorrectly showed during Sunday’s Oscars in memorial reel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONDO TRENDS

Developments with urban appeal gaining attention

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada



As skyrocketing real estate prices are driven by demand for housing in Toronto, a growing number of people are opting for the affordability of the suburbs. With major investments in transit infrastructure in and around the GTA, the "burbs" are becoming more attractive to a wider group of people.

One of the great urban renewal success stories in the GTHA is the City of Hamilton, currently undergoing a remarkable transformation into a new centre of the arts, culture, learning and technology.

A flurry of development activity is underway in the downtown core and surrounding areas. As well as the new homes, townhouses and condominiums being built, there's an emphasis on the restoration and revival of a number of Hamilton's many historic, older buildings.

Hamilton's landmark heritage restoration is the Residences of Royal Connaught, which last weekend celebrated the opening of phase two; the historic east wing of the elegant building.



An aerial view of the Central Park development on Rymal Road East in Hamilton. Inset: The three-storey Esprit model townhomes at Central Park. TOP: DUNCAN MCALLISTER/METRO, INSET: CONTRIBUTED

Once a grand hotel, the Royal Connaught was Hamilton's social epicentre during its many years in operation.

Developed by project partners Rudi Spallacci and Ted Valeri, the residential conversion of the hotel spans an entire block in the heart of downtown is a symbol of the area's revitalization. "The Residences of Royal Connaught marries heritage

with a modern interior, plus all the conveniences of living downtown," says Valeri.

Just outside of downtown is Central Park, a new, multi-phase project by Losani Homes located in East Hamilton. It is comprised of four distinct neighbourhoods named after well-known localities in New York City, namely, Park Avenue, Madison, Soho and Midtown. The housing forms



range from midrise condos to freehold and urban towns and detached homes.

For generations, Hamilton has been known as Canada's steel town. From the Burlington Skyway bridge, travellers would get a glimpse of the forest of smoke stacks and smelters of the Stelco and Dofasco steel mills.

"It ended up defining the municipality," says Fred Losani, CEO of Losani Homes. "What you don't see is the abundance of conservation lands and these great little hidden gems that exist throughout the escarpment area."

Losani tells Metro that the future looks bright for the City

of Hamilton.

"There's been a lot of money invested in the downtown core, so the writing is in the on the wall. You're going to see this great vibrancy that's coming to the city. It's going to become very, very chic. I think it will be a great alternative to the Toronto downtown scene."

DESIGN IDEAS

National Home Show serves all your renovation needs

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada



Considering a renovation but don't know where to start? Look no further than the National Home Show which runs from March 10 to 19 at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place.

The National Home Show is North America's largest home and garden show featuring a wide range of products and services for your home. With more than 700 exhibitors on the floor, there's something for everyone.

The Show is also a great place to get help for your next renovation. Exhibitors include professional renovators, designers, manufacturers, suppliers and more. Many of them can offer free professional renovation advice.

If you're looking for some helpful tips for a small project you're considering, Lowes DIY Centre features demonstrations on common home improvement jobs like insulating basements, hanging new kitchen cabinets or stopping a pesky draft.

Looking for some great décor ideas? Visit Design Inter-

vention presented by Reno & Décor Magazine where interior designers and decorators will be on hand to offer one-on-one consultations, free advice and expert tricks.

If you are renovating, make sure you attend the Five Steps to a Successful Renovation seminar on the main stage on March 10, 11 and 14. Two professional RenoMark renovators will discuss the five essential steps to a home or condominium renovation, outline what you should know about permits and point out what to look for when hiring a renovator. Get the full schedule at national-

homeshow.com.

Another great source for professional renovation is Destination Renovation, BILD's featured exhibit at the Show. It will have a team of professional RenoMark renovators offering free renovation advice.

Destination Renovation is also a good place to learn about the national RenoMark program and how it can help you find professional renovators, trade contractors and custom builders.

What sets RenoMark renovators apart is their commitment to a code of conduct which binds them to things like pro-

viding written contracts for all jobs, having at least \$2 million liability insurance and offering a minimum two-year warranty. Learn more at renomark.ca.

The National Home Show also features a Dream Home that you can actually walk through and experience. This year's Dream Home is the stunning 2,600 square foot Future-DreamHome built by RenoMark member PROBUILT.

The Show is co-located with Canada Blooms which offers more than 50,000 square feet of gardens and more than 30 landscapers.

There's something for every-

one at the National Home Show. Check out all the features and highlights online. There is also free parking after 4 p.m. on weekdays.

If you buy your tickets online, use the "STAR1" promo code and save \$5 off the regular purchase price, exclusively for my readers. Please enjoy the show.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

LEGAL MATTERS

On buying property with other investors



ISTOCK

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada



Q: A couple friends of mine and I are considering purchasing one or more properties for investment purposes (probably condos to rent out).

We're contemplating how to set this up. Should we set up a company where we are

shareholders or is it better to buy under each of our names?

A: Your question is jammed full of potential issues and answers such as:

- the costs of incorporating,
- how would this entity be taxed?
- would a new corporation be eligible for financing (a mortgage)?,
- how would you structure the ownership of the corporation?

• and a host of other questions.

My advice to you: set yourselves up with a good accountant, an experienced lawyer and a knowledgeable banker to guide you through the numerous choices and considerations of what could be a fairly complex business decision. Good luck!



Epiphyllum oxypetalum (Queen of the Night cactus). TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thriving on neglect

HOME DÉCOR

Cacti are the perfect plant for beginner green thumbs

Succulents, which are plants with fleshy stems or leaves, are ideal houseplants. They have interesting shapes, are relatively pest-free and thrive in the dry air of a heated home — and on neglect.

Let's look at cacti, which are just one type of succulent.

Cacti are native only to the Americas, having evolved 60 million years ago when upward-pushing mountains transformed the then-lush tropical climate of the western Americas to desert. With thick stems for water storage (a giant saguaro cactus of Arizona can store 1,900 litres of water), an absence of leaves, which reduces water loss, and waxy coatings to hold in water, cacti thrived despite parched conditions. To fend off animals, many species developed spines.

Origin and variety

Over time, cacti spread from within the Arctic Circle down to the tip of Chile. I have seen flat, green pads of opuntias growing wild on New York beaches and Christmas cactus growing wild in the crevices of trees in tropical rain forests. With the exception of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, every state in the

U.S. has at least one species of native cactus.

Visual oddities abound. The old-man cactus (*Cephalocereus senilis*) has a shaggy covering of long, hoary "hair." The lamb's-tail cactus (*Wilcoxia senilis*) has slender stems which seem to pour out from the swollen root that protrudes above the soil line. Some of the moon cacti (*Gymnocalycium* spp.) have had their green chlorophyll bred out of them, so they are now red. Without chlorophyll, they can't survive, so they are grafted on top of other cacti.

Spectacular flowers

Cacti commonly have spectacular flowers, made more dramatic by their prickly pedestals. Cacti such as mammillaria, notocactus, lobivia and reboutia bloom indoors with very little coaxing (rebutia often blooming twice each year). Fat flower buds along the stems of the orchid cactus, *Epiphyllum* open to spectacular red, pink or white blossoms, depending on the variety.

Care tips

Caring for a cactus is easy: Provide good drainage by adding extra sand or perlite to any potting mix. Do not overwater.

Water your cacti two or three times, or even not at all, in winter. In summer, once every week or two is plenty. Watch the stems. If the plants shrivel or pucker, don't worry; just water them. If in doubt about whether or not to water, don't. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Peak is the first of three buildings planned for the block. Views are not guaranteed.

Near all the amenities

THE PEAK



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

The newest phase of the Emerald City community in Don Mills is across from Fairview Mall and the greenery of Parkway Forest Park. It's also close to schools and North York General Hospital.

Location and transit

Conveniently located directly across from the Fairview Mall, the building is close to the Don Mills subway station and drivers have quick access to highways 401, 404 and the Don Valley Parkway.

Housing amenities

Amenities will include a party room, an indoor pool with sauna and hot tub, landscaped outdoor patio for barbecuing and dining and a family play lounge with TV and table tennis.

In the neighbourhood

Residents will enjoy access to more than 175 shops, services, restaurants and the cinemas of Fairview. Next door is Parkway Forest Community Centre with its gymnasium, running track, arts-and-crafts room, and YMCA-run daycare.

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: The Peak
Builder: Emerald City Developments
Architect: WZMH
Interiors: Tanner Hill
Location: Don Mills and Sheppard
Building: A 33-storey tower with podium
Sizes: From 475 to 928 square feet
Suites: One-bedroom, one-bedroom-plus-den,

two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus-den layouts
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NBA Wizards' spell ends Raps' winning ways

There would be no thrilling fourth-quarter comeback for the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday.

Playing their fourth game without all-star guard Kyle Lowry, the Raptors dropped a 105-96 decision to Eastern Conference rival Washington Wizards to end a four-game winning streak.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points to top the Raptors (36-25), while Serge Ibaka had 22 points and 12 rebounds. Cory Joseph — starting for Lowry — had 11 points and just one assist.

The Raptors had rallied from double-digit deficits in all four games of their winning streak. But mustering just 11 assists on the night — they had just three through the first three quarters — it was clear how sorely the team missed Lowry.

Bojan Bogdanovic led Wash-



Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas attempts a shot against the Wizards' Marcin Gortat on Wednesday.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ington (36-23) with 27 points.

With just 21 games left in the regular season, the Raptors are clawing for playoff position in a crowded Eastern Conference. Wednesday's game was the first of two straight against the Wizards, who Toronto trailed for third in the east by just percentage points.

The Raptors are in Washington on Friday to open a five-game road trip. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEDNESDAY At ACC

105 96
WIZARDS RAPTORS

IN BRIEF

Durant out indefinitely with sprained MCL

Golden State Warriors star Kevin Durant will be out indefinitely — perhaps until the playoffs — after he sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee and bruised a bone in his leg during Tuesday night's loss at Washington.

Durant leads the Warriors in scoring and rebounding with 25.3 points and 8.2 boards along with 4.8 assists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL salary cap rises to \$167M per team

The NFL salary cap for the upcoming season will be \$167 million per team, up more than \$12 million over last year.

The league and the NFL Players Association compile the cap from specific revenues, and it has risen annually.

This is the fourth consecutive year the cap has risen at least \$10 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs stock up on experience

NHL Cup winner Fehr added to roster two days after Boyle deal

Leafs general manager Lou Lamoriello added veteran centre Eric Fehr for the team's playoff drive, but Toronto's reputation for burying veteran players with big contracts with the Marlies may have derailed plans for bigger moves.

The Leafs got Fehr, a 31-year-old centre with a relatively cheap \$2-million price tag, journeyman defenceman Steven Oleksy and a fourth-round pick this summer at the cost of 23-year-old defensive prospect Frank Corrado, who could simply not catch on under Mike Babcock.

At six-foot-four, and with 103 goals and 99 assists in 561 career NHL games that includes a Stanley Cup ring with the Penguins, Fehr joins fellow veteran Brian Boyle, acquired earlier in the week, on a bolstered fourth line.

"The two of them will add something we have to the young players we have in this lineup," Lamoriello said. "The most important thing is to stay the course."

"What we've done is give our younger players an opportunity to be around some players that have experience, and to help develop that culture of winning."

What the Leafs were not able to do was use their vast reservoir of cap space — about \$13 million — to take a bad contract off a team with the reward of a



Eric Fehr has 60 post-season games under his belt.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

high-end prospect or draft pick. They did it last year, getting defenceman Connor Carrick in the deal that sent them Brooks Laich.

It was reported that Tampa was ready to send forward

Valteri Filppula to the Leafs to rid themselves of his \$5 million salary next year, but he refused to waive his no-movement clause. Filppula, 32, also played seven seasons in Detroit under Babcock.

A source told Torstar News Service it was because Filppula didn't want what happened

to Laich and Milan Michalek to happen to him. Laich and Michalek, both NHL veterans, played in the minors this year. Filppula's no-movement clause might have protected him, but the Leafs have also used injury lists to send unwanted veterans home, as they did with Stephane Robidas in 2015-16.

"What happened to (Laich and Michalek) will hurt them for a long time," said the source.

Lamoriello was asked if any agents or players turned him down for that reason.

"You'd have to ask somebody else that question," Lamoriello said. "I couldn't answer that."

Filppula accepted a trade to Philadelphia that ended up aiding the Leafs. When Pittsburgh got some cap relief in trading

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ERIC FEHR, F
STEVE OLEKSY, D
FOURTH-ROUNDER (2017)

TO PENGUINS:
FRANK CORRADO, D

BOSTON-WINNIPEG

TO BRUINS:
DREW STAFFORD, F

TO JETS:
CONDITIONAL SIXTH-ROUNDER

FLORIDA-DETROIT

TO PANTHERS:
THOMAS VANEK, F

TO RED WINGS:
DYLAN MCILRATH, D
COND. THIRD-ROUNDER (2017)

LOS ANGELES-COLORADO

TO KINGS:
JAROME IGINLA, F

TO AVALANCHE:
COND. FOURTH-ROUNDER (2018)

Fehr to Toronto, they used it to pick up defenceman Mark Streit, whom Tampa had gotten from Philadelphia for Filppula.

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Title fight for GSP's return

UFC

Canuck star will face UK champ Bisping later in 2017

Former welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre is starting his comeback with a bang — against UFC middleweight title-holder Michael Bisping.

The two will meet for the 185-pound crown in the second half of 2017, according to the UFC. "It's on," Bisping said in a social media post featuring the fight poster.

The 35-year-old St-Pierre has not fought since November 2013 when he won a narrow decision over Johny (Bigg Rigg) Hendricks for his 12th straight win. The Montreal mixed martial arts star then took a hiatus, saying he needed time away from the sport.

England's Bisping won the middleweight championship



Georges St-Pierre, left, and Michael Bisping GETTY IMAGES

from Luke Rockhold at UFC 199 in January 2016, subsequently defending the title against Dan Henderson. The 38-year-old Bisping (31-7-0) had been campaigning for a big-money fight against St-Pierre (25-2-0). St-Pierre's previous UFC fights were all at 170 pounds.

The two fighters are slated to appear at a news conference Friday in Las Vegas prior to the UFC 209 weigh-ins.

For the UFC, St-Pierre versus Bisping is a welcome marquee fight at a time when lightweight champion (The Notorious) Conor McGregor is awaiting the birth of his child, while former

light-heavyweight title-holder Jon (Bones) Jones is trying to sort out his life outside the cage and former women's flag-bearer (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey is contemplating her fighting future after beatdowns at the hands of Holly Holm and Amanda Nunes.

St-Pierre was a pay-per-view heavyweight for the UFC at the time of his departure from the sport. He kept training during his time away and had to undergo knee surgery after a practice injury.

The Canadian was known for his elite cardio and ample toolbox, equally able to strike or wrestle. His popularity is shown by the fact that, despite his time away from the sport, he has 1.54 million Twitter followers. Current welterweight champion Tyron Woodley has 132,000.

A well-conditioned fighter who can pepper opponents with punches, Bisping has won his last five bouts including a victory over middleweight icon Anderson Silva. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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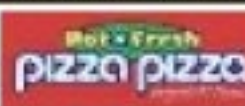


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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Aromatic Shrimp and Vegetable Spaghetti



PHOTO: MAVA VISNENI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Cana



This pasta features roasted vegetables and fresh herbs.

Ready in 50 minutes

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 8 to 10

Ingredients

- 1 yellow zucchini, sliced in half lengthwise
- 2 portobello mushrooms, stems removed, caps scooped and halved, then cut crosswise into slices
- 1 red pepper, sliced into quarters
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped and divided
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped oregano
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped rosemary
- 1 lb. thawed peeled deveined shrimp
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 box of spaghetti
- 2 large meaty tomatoes, sliced into chunks

- 1 container marinated artichoke hearts, plus a drizzle of its oil
- 1 cup feta cheese
- 1 handful fresh chopped basil

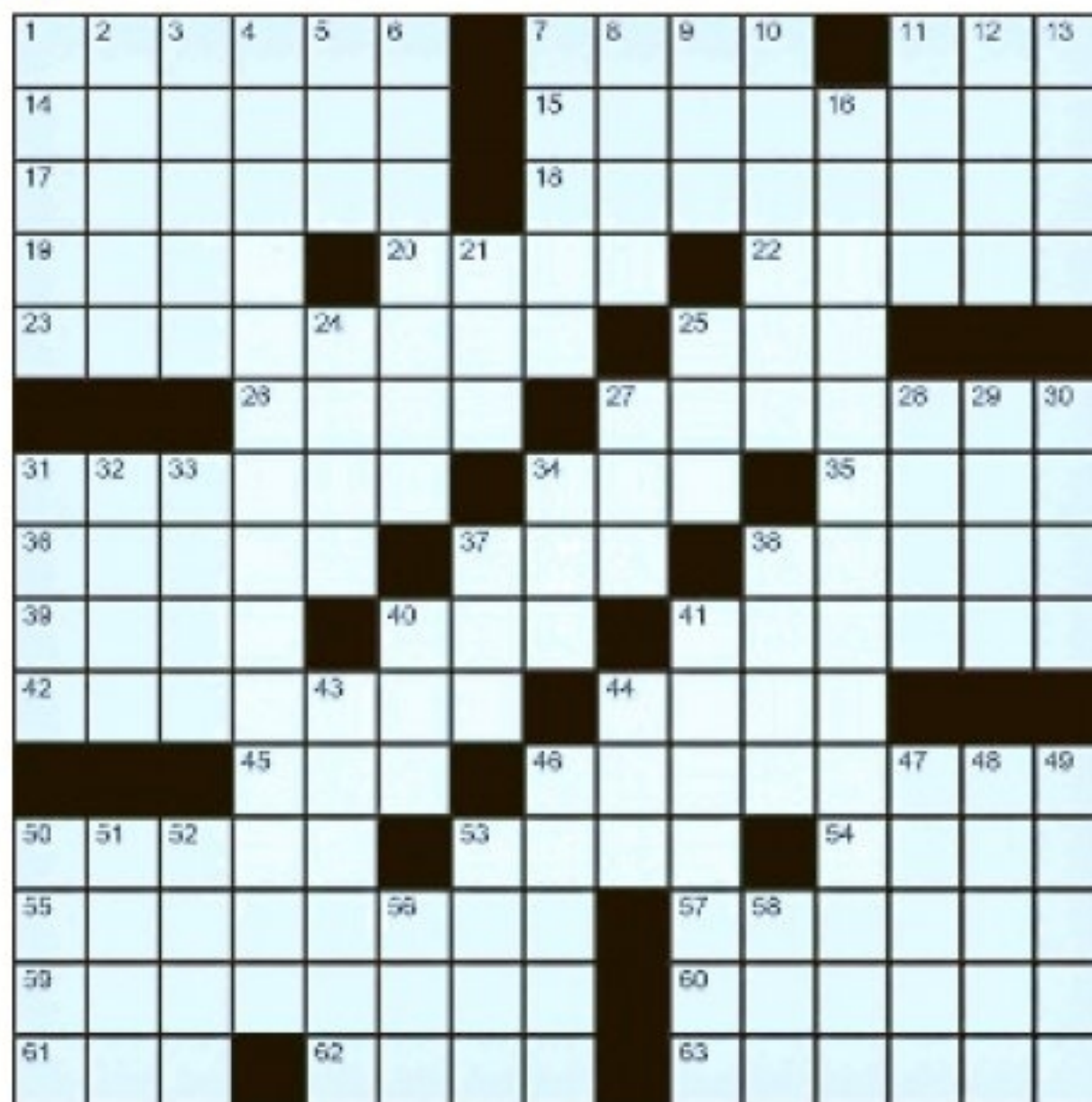
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400. Toss zucchini, mushrooms and red pepper with 2 Tbsp olive oil, balsamic vinegar, 2 garlic cloves, oregano and rosemary to coat.
2. Place vegetables on greased pan and roast; turn once and cook 30 minutes.
3. Remove to platter and cool. Slice s into bite-size pieces.
4. In a large skillet over medium heat, add butter and two garlic cloves and cook till aromatic, about 1 minute. Add shrimp and cook until pink, about 5 minutes. Remove shrimp and juices and set aside.
5. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan of salted boiling water, cook pasta. Drain. Drizzle remaining oil into pasta. Toss vegetables with shrimp and buttery juices into pasta and serve with basil.

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45. Highlander's hat
46. Takeoff/landing locale
50. 'Romeo' sports cars
53. Global, briefly
54. Off the dragon
55. War-like
57. Julia Louis-Dreyfus's character on

- "Seinfeld"
59. Distinction
 60. More tidy
 61. _ worth
 62. Rugs of Scandinavia
 63. Surplus

DOWN

1. Main meanings
2. Not 'tragically' cool
3. Sedimentary rock
4. _ Provincial Park, in southwestern Manitoba near Boissevain, known for the 'Western Painted' shelled creatures found there
5. Soul: French
6. Ships and tankers and dinghies
7. Puzzle type
8. "Blimey!"
9. Oui opposite
10. Martin Short comedy, "Three _" (1986)
11. Catch _ _ ('Get')
12. Geese: French
13. Actress, Melissa Joan _
16. Juno-winning roots musician who is Natalie MacMaster's cousin: 2 wds.
21. Open with a crowbar

24. Trim
25. "I Love You, Suzanne" singer ...his initials-sharers
27. _-en-Provence, France
28. No, in Munich
29. Notation atop a memo, for short
30. Ms. Kudrow
31. Organized crime chief
32. Baking cookies appliance
33. Soft muddy spot
34. _ polloi (Common people)
37. ' _ _ for Langley
38. Feudal worker
40. Belief system
41. Singer Ms. Love
43. _ Island (Statued marvel west of Chile in the South Pacific)
44. US univ.
46. Poker stakes
47. Top rate
48. Street sections
49. Tint-to-hair appliers
50. "So be it!" in church
51. Key _ pie
52. Move like a hummingbird
53. Empire of yore
56. Whichever
58. Mr. Luthor, "Superman" (1978) villain

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with partners and close friends might suddenly get a lovely boost or lift today. Someone might compliment you. You might meet someone new who is unusual.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
An unexpected job opportunity might come your way today, or perhaps work-related travel suddenly will appear. Something might even improve your health. Who knows?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
An unexpected invitation for a vacation or a social event might land in your lap today. Love at first sight will begin for some of you. Yes, it's an exciting, fun-filled day!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Keep your eyes open for real-estate opportunities or chances to improve your existing home today. A spontaneous family gathering might take place.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected news or an unusual opportunity makes you happy today. Your spirits are high and your optimism is strong. This is just how you like things to be.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Business and commerce are favoured today; in fact, something unexpected might come along that really boosts your income. It might be a new job or something on the side.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
All kinds of opportunities might pop out of the woodwork today. This means you have to keep your eyes open and be ready to act fast.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a feel-good day. You feel happy with yourself and content with your world. Appreciate your good fortune.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your popularity will get a boost today because others admire you. This is why you might suddenly be thrust into a position of leadership in a group or class.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something will happen today that boosts your reputation in the eyes of others. If an opportunity presents itself, you will have to act quickly. Don't hesitate.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A surprise opportunity to travel might suddenly materialize today. If so, act quickly, because this window will be brief.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Keep your pockets open, because gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way today. However, they will be unexpected. (What a nice surprise!)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	7		9	4		5		
6								3
			5	2				
	8	3				9	2	
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3	7	9	5	6	4	1	8	2
1	8	4	2	9	7	6	3	5
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9	3	6	7	1	2	8	5	4
5	2	1	6	4	8	3	7	9
4	6	7	3	2	9	5	1	8
2	9	3	8	5	1	7	4	6
8	1	5	4	7	6	9	2	3



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